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*Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as the Subcommittee on Aviation, which oversaw the FAA reauthorization earlier this year.*

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted to pass H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations bill of 2008. The bill provides families with affordable housing, helps modernize our transportation infrastructure and restores the damaging cuts proposed by the President.

The President's budget proposed slashing airport modernization, safety and efficiency grants by \$765 million or 22 percent below the 2007 level. H.R. 3074 rejects this cut and instead provides \$3.6 billion, or \$86 million above the 2007 level. In a time of rapidly growing air travel, these grants are more vital than ever. These grants are needed to ease congestion and prepare our nation's airport infrastructure to handle an anticipated 1 billion passengers by 2015.

The funding H.R. 3074 provides will accelerate implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). NextGen will ensure that growth in the aviation industry will continue and maintain the strength of our aviation economy while ensuring our nation's airspace can handle 1 billion passengers by 2015.

In addition, NextGen will move the FAA's air traffic control organization from a radar-based system to satellite-based, revolutionizing how air traffic controllers at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport arrange daily flights.

**"Investments in modernizing our transportation infrastructure are crucial to creating a dynamic 21st century economy," Carnahan said. "H.R. 3074 is an essential part of our modernization because it allows our nation's airports to handle more flights. We have seen an increase in the yearly passenger traffic at Lambert, and this bill will allow for such growth at Lambert to continue."**